

April 26, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING - LD 1312

**AN ACT TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND ALLOW ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS WHERE SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES ARE ALLOWED**

**Testimony in Opposition**

Submitted by Councilor Jill Goldthwait for the Bar Harbor Town Council

jillgold@gwi.net; H 207-288-5461; C 207-460-5461

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and members of the Committee on Labor and Housing:

LD 1312 is a significant intrusion on the right of our community to make land use decisions. The bill pre-empts municipal authority in those decisions and will create conflicts with our voter-approved local land use goals.

This bill would prohibit some of the land use ordinance provisions we have adopted and would require revision to our ordinance, a lengthy process that requires voter approval. It would also interrupt decision-making already underway, some of which we have been working on for two years. It would require revising the parking program we implemented just three years ago. LD 1312 prohibits even the local determination of setbacks for new accessory dwelling units.

Our community is struggling with a growing shortage of affordable, year-round housing. Already almost 20% of our housing stock is vacation rentals and this proposal would limit our ability to manage housing availability and affordability to promote a healthy year-round community.

Removing barriers to accessory dwelling units is unlikely to result in more year-round housing here. The Bar Harbor Town Council, at its April 20 meeting, voted unanimously to oppose this bill. We strongly urge you to reject LD 1312.

Jill Goldthwait  
Bar Harbor

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